

**CSBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING**  
**May 24, 2011**

**Roll Call**

**CSD Staff**

John Wagner  
Bruce Farrington  
Cathe Torgerson  
Rachel Arrezola  
Ronn Kaiser  
Stella Avila  
Tamija Bryant  
Jady Ramirez  
Whitney Wilcox  
Sherri Bridgeforth  
Linné Stout  
Leslie Taylor  
Pamela Harrison  
Leisa Maestretti

**Agencies on Conference Call**

Berkeley Community Action Agency  
Campesinos Unidos, Inc.  
Central Valley Opportunity Center, Inc.  
Los Angeles County, Department of Public Social  
Services  
Community Action Partnership of Madera County  
San Benito County Department of Community  
Services and Workforce Development  
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino  
County  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County  
Shasta County Community Action Agency  
Community Services & Employment Training

**Agencies Attending**

Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency  
Community Action Agency of Butte County  
Calaveras/Mariposa Community Action Agency  
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership  
California Human Development Corporation  
Glenn County Human Resource Agency  
Community Design Center  
Contra Costa County Community Services  
Department  
Community Action Partnership of Kern County  
Kings Community Action Organization  
Long Beach Community Services Development  
Corporation  
Merced County Community Action Agency  
North Coast Opportunities  
City of Oakland Department of Human Services  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
Placer County Health and Human Services  
Department  
Lassen, Plumas, Sierra Community Action Agency  
Community Action Partnership of Riverside  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
Sacred Heart Community Service  
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency  
San Joaquin County Department of Aging,  
Children's, and Community Services  
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo  
County  
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara  
County  
Community Action Partnership of Solano  
Community Action Partnership Sonoma County  
Tehama County Community Action  
Community Action of Ventura County  
Yolo County, Department of Employment and  
Social Services

## **Minutes**

### **WELCOME**

Pamela Harrison welcomed everyone and introduced John Wagner, the new Acting Director of the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the November 16, 2010, CAC meeting were distributed and approved.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

John Wagner provided information about his background and introduced Linné Stout, CSD's Acting Chief Deputy Director.

John discussed some of the challenges CSD is facing in the current governmental climate. He explained the importance of the network's continuing efforts to utilize its resources in federally acceptable ways. Office of Community Services (OCS) is closely scrutinizing the results of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Although there are proposals to streamline many State functions by combining and/or reorganizing specific programs/departments, there is no proposal in the most recently proposed State budget to make changes to CSD.

Governor Brown's administration appears to be supportive of stakeholders. John encouraged the network to actively propose what is best for our programs/participants. It is not enough to detail the negative effect on the poor of losing funding.

Tom Tenorio, CAA Butte County, stated that California is the lead in revamping performance measures.

### **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Rachel Arrezola, CSD's Legislative and Public Affairs Coordinator, gave a brief presentation which included a description of her experience in Governor Schwarzenegger's administration. She is responsible for handling all media, legislative, external affairs, and public affairs for CSD. She expressed her appreciation for the accomplishments of the agencies she has visited.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE**

Pamela Harrison, CSD, discussed the frequency of the CAC meetings. She reminded the agencies that a vote was taken in May 2010 to change from quarterly to two meetings per year. Several agencies expressed their desire to return to holding quarterly meetings, due to the issues currently facing the network. A motion to return to quarterly meetings was made by Tom

Tenorio and seconded by Maria Juarez, CAP Riverside. The vote was unanimous. The next CAC meeting will be held on August 17, 2011.

The OCS audit report for California was issued with errors. Pamela is still trying to obtain the revised report so that she can respond on behalf of CSD.

The SCO auditors who performed an agency audit are still working on their audit report and they anticipate holding the exit conference in June 2011.

Pamela Harrison updated the network with information from the May 19, 2011, Region 9 teleconference.

- The states haven't received their final awards which will contain final allocations for FFY 2011. OCS has told the states to prepare State Plans to reflect an anticipated 50% cut for FFY 2012. The cut may be higher or lower, but the states should plan for a 50% cut.
- OCS is requesting that the States provide additional information in their FFYs 2012/2013 CSBG State Plans. The State legislative hearing for California's CSBG State Plan is scheduled for August 16, 2011.
- Biz Steinberg, CAP San Luis Obispo, expressed her desire for additional information about the funding formula. Tim Reese, Cal/Neva, will give a presentation on SB 1376, which may answer some of the funding formula questions.
- Pamela Harrison recommended that the agencies have in-depth discussions with their Boards regarding the potential 50% cuts.
- A proposed performance based process for allocation of CSBG funds in the future is likely. Access to CSBG funding could be opened up to other, non CSBG eligible, entities.
- Pamela Harrison stated that James Gray is the Region 9 representative.
- OCS Secretary David Hansel has resigned effective June 2011 and George Sheldon will be Acting Secretary.
- The states are required to submit monthly reports to OCS regarding agencies in which non compliance issues have been identified.

Buddy Ray, CAP Orange County, reported that he had participated in a conference call with National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) regarding urging Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to release the balance of the CSBG funds.

## **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT UPDATE**

Leslie Taylor, CSD, presented detailed information regarding the status of each of the RFAs currently in process.

- The RFA for an interim contractor to provide services in San Mateo County was awarded to Samaritan House. This contract is for 6 months and is funded with discretionary funds.
- The RFA for a designated nonprofit CAA in San Mateo County will not be awarded. There were no proposals which met the requirements of the RFA.
- San Mateo County has subsequently expressed its interest in being designated as a CAA.
- CSD received proposals from 40 agencies in response to the targeted initiatives and innovative projects RFA. Contracts were awarded to 17 applicant agencies.
- Only one applicant submitted a proposal in response to the RFA for a designated nonprofit CAA in Alameda County. The proposal did not meet all of the requirements of the RFA.
- May 27, 2011 is the deadline for applicants to submit their proposals in response to the RFA for a designated nonprofit CAA in Lake County. The recent Bidders' Workshop was well attended with twelve representatives from four nonprofit entities and one public agency. In addition to participating in the workshop, the attendees took the opportunity to engage in lively partnering discussions.

Buddy Ray recommended that CSD make every effort to award contracts to nonprofit entities, rather than governmental agencies.

Amber Twitchell, California Human Development Corporation, asked to whom questions/concerns about problems with other agencies should be directed. Ronn Kaiser, CSD's Chief Legal Counsel, responded that these types of concerns should be directed to CSD. However, although CSD tries to be informative to the network, it is somewhat limited, due to concerns about avoiding slandering a CAP. Ronn asked the network to keep CSD informed about any problems of which the agencies become aware.

## **ASSOCIATION UPDATES**

Lynn Grogan, Cal/Neva, and Val Martinez, CAP Kern, presented information on the "Save CSBG" Campaign. Although the funding for CSBG was reduced by 2.9% in the 2011 federal budget, there will be much more drastic cuts to come in the future. They asked the network to contact legislators and President Obama regarding the impact on Community Action Agencies and the services critical to low income families.

Tim Reese, Cal/Neva, asked the network to support Cal/Neva by becoming members.

Biz Steinberg asked the network to contact State legislators and facilitate meetings between them and CSBG participants.

Patricia Nickols, CAP of San Bernardino County, related that, in their agency, they provided each food bank recipient with a postcard asking the President to continue funding CSBG. The postcards were completed by the recipients, collected, and sent to the President.

Buddy Ray told the agencies that “Phase 1”, a 2.9% reduction in funding, is actually a win. During “Phase 2”, he is asking the network provide as much information as possible about the positive impact of CSBG funding to anyone who will listen, including the media, legislators, and the President.

Biz Steinberg asked the agencies to contact her if they would like to be presenters at the August NCAP conference in San Francisco.

The California Community Economic Development Association conference in San Diego is free to all CAAs.

Sukie Montes, CSD, led a discussion regarding planning for reduced resources. Ralph Martinez, CAP of Kern County, Socorro Lopez Hansen, CA of Ventura County, and Carolyn Welch, North Coast Opportunities, all provided input on their efforts to prepare for funding reductions.

Some examples of these activities are:

- Combined programs;
- Remodeled agency-owned buildings to enable them to house staff and continue to serve participants without acquiring new office space;
- Created over 60 community gardens in schools and low income housing projects;
- Fee for service;
- Make food bank self supporting;
- Invest funds to produce program income.

Sukie Montes asked the agencies which were awarded Targeted Initiative Contracts to submit the contracts as soon as possible as they must be fully executed by June 30, 2011.

During the working lunch, P.J. Davis, CAP Solano, gave a presentation on Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) in California. If 5 California people sign up to become Certified ROMA Trainers, the training will be held in California.

Leisa Maestretti, CSD’s Chief of Financial Operations/Acting Deputy Director, Administration, provided information regarding allocation of CSBG funds. She also stressed the importance of all outstanding contracts and/or contract amendments being fully executed before June 30, 2011. If the State budget is not passed by June 30, 2011, there may be a delay in executing the contracts.

Tim Reese gave a presentation on the history of AB 1376, now CA Government Code Section 12759. There was a discussion regarding how to handle the funding formula and options for proactively dealing with the expected drastic funding reductions.

John Wagner agreed with the network that a meeting should be held to discuss how to handle the proposed reduction in funding. Cal/Neva will work with CSD to facilitate the meeting.

Tim Reese provided the network with information regarding proposed legislation affecting CalFresh (formerly the Food Stamp Program). California is one of just three remaining states and one city which require all adult household members to provide fingerprint and photo imaging in order to receive benefits. Not only does this process cost California approximately \$17 million each year, a 2009 USDA report indicates that participation may be 7% lower in states with the fingerprint requirements. Among other benefits to California's needy population, this proposed legislation would remove the requirement that CalFresh applicants provide fingerprints as a condition of eligibility.

Tim Reese also discussed a plan being sponsored by Senator Carol Liu to reduce the number of Californians living in poverty while increasing statewide economic productivity.

Finally, Tim Reese discussed OCS' new strategic approach to achieve excellence in the CSBG T/TA program and related activities. As a part of this new approach, OCS will establish 10 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia that support innovation in the CSBG program.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.